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Alberta's Solution— **UNITY!**



Reprint of a Radio Address
given by
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UNITY!

THE following is the text of a radio address delivered by Mr. McFarland over an Alberta network, Tuesday evening, February 8th, 1938:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Those of you who have followed my previous broadcasts will recall I have very candidly discussed our public and private debt situation, and how crop failures, coupled with the adverse changes in world economy during recent years, had clearly shown that much of the debt contracted in prosperous times, and the accumulated interest at excessive rates had become a burden, which in many instances could not be repaid in the terms of the contracts. That fact was admitted in regard to farmer debt, as long ago as 1934, when the Dominion Government enacted The Farmers' Creditors' Arrangement Act. That Act is based upon the premise that debts and interest should be re-arranged and reduced in a fair and just manner, so that those who are honest and diligent in their operations, should be granted a fair and liberal measure of relief from excessive debt and thus be enabled to carry on, with hope revived and expectation of paying the reduced amount.

The Act, however, does not presume to shift fair and honest obligations from individuals who can reasonably be expected to pay part or all, and thereby transfer to the creditors a burden which would not only be an injustice, but would, in all probability, entail hardships, and undeserved and inequitable suffering on others.

I submit to you that Act is based on a moral principle which is surely in accordance with the Golden Rule which commands that "we do unto others as we would that others should do unto us." That Act alone demonstrates that our cultural heritage, this Canada of ours, is a country in which justice, equity and liberty have not perished, and whose economy has been governed by live-and-let-live policies.

Our provincial government, however, has at no time since 1935 shown any concern, nor have they made any effort, to have that Act improved by the necessary minor amendments thereto, or its benefits extended to others as well as to farmers.

In the past two and a half years, which is a long time in the lives of many individuals under the unhappy conditions which have prevailed, this government has done nothing to further the cause of wholesome or progressive legislation. They have done nothing to either implement or admit the failure of their misleading pre-election promises, or the adjustment of debt, all of which has impaired the morale of our people, and retarded our recovery from the depression. Furthermore, they have made no honest effort to lawfully lower the rate of interest and refund our public debt.

PROGRESS IMPEDED

The result is we are unnecessarily branded as "wilful defaulters" by the rest of the world, and until we face the issue as a responsible democracy should face it, then so long will the stigma of "wilful repudiators" adhere to us as a people, and hold back private investment from constructive progress.

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While this lamentable condition is allowed to continue we cannot expect improvement in the unemployment situation, and our young men and women who are on the threshold of life cannot enjoy the advantages of the great heritage which should be theirs in Alberta.

Some one has told me the Government did do something worthwhile, inasmuch as they had given effect to moratorium law. That is true, but it must be remembered the legal definition of moratorium is "payment deferred." That law does not adjust debts, while on the other hand delay of settlement does, as a matter of fact, increase debts and thereby adds to the difficulties at the time of settlement, and you may be sure that time is bound to come.

The fact is, moratoriums have become the refuge of legislative procrastinators, who possess no practicable understanding of business problems. The premier exclaims, "when the Dominion says 'ultra vires,' I say 'moratorium'." Thus he plays the part of a wilful and perverse small boy who refuses to play the game unless he is allowed to make the rules or fill the position of judge. He would be dictator and dominate Canada, and because the constitution stands in his way, he calls "moratorium," and the government goes on a sit-down strike. He challenges Canadian Confederation in order to try out a fanciful and untried experiment which is the product of a brain storm of a pseudo-economist in England, who has no official standing in his own country, or elsewhere, except in Edmonton. In the meantime our elected representatives enjoy lucrative salaries and other emoluments, the

maintenance and continuation of which appears to be the chief anxiety and concern of many of the members of the present provincial government.

DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY

Having failed as a responsible government they engaged the services of sham-experts from abroad, who are without reputation as experts in their own country. They import these men at great expense to this province, and pay them large salaries, while rural school teachers, many of whom are superior in ability, and are rendering a great service to the province, are having great difficulty in securing the payment of their meagre salaries. Our government at great expense imported these useless experts from abroad, and they place their simple trust, and our money, in those hirelings to perform the duties and fulfil the rash promises which each government member personally undertook at the time of the election.

After being in office two and a half years, this Social Credit Government continues to proclaim and advertise a condition of "poverty in the midst of plenty," and I regret to say their statement regarding poverty is correct, and they have done nothing to improve that condition. It is not correct, however, to say this province is in the "midst of plenty," because of the fact that crop failures have created a condition of scarcity.

Poverty arises from various causes, and it has existed throughout the recorded history of mankind, but I am grateful when I say there has never been a time, when there has been so much practical sympathy, in the form of general and generous assistance to all classes of our

less fortunate fellow-men, as in these recent years.

Human betterment can be achieved only by the human effort of all classes, and I am sure every intelligent and generous minded person is co-operating toward a more perfect state. While poverty has existed, and does exist, it must be admitted physical relief has been on a wide and generous scale, but it must be regretfully observed there is also a different variety of poverty, which is far too prevalent, especially among those who presume to reform the economic system, and that is poverty and scarcity of practicable, honest, sound and independent thought and reasoning.

It has been said the greatest danger to democracy and liberty exists in the insidious encroachments by men of zeal, who may or may not be well meaning, but who are without practical understanding of what is involved. I have every sympathy with people who really and truly mean well on behalf of the people as a whole, but what are you going to do with those individuals, who contend that if there is an objective which appears very desirable, it must for that reason be possible of easy and prompt achievement? They conclude the end justifies the means, and I say to you in all seriousness, that is a dangerous conclusion, which can only result in grievous retribution.

"ASSOCIATION" ONLY NEED

What are you going to do about a form of government which advocates a fanciful theory, called social credit, which the social credit experts describe by using the following words: "It is the power resulting from the belief inherent within so-

ciety, that its individual members in association can gain what they desire."

That is the social credit dogma and if that jumble of words mean anything, and I don't believe they do, they would seem to suggest the individual inhabitants of a city, province, or country, can gain what they desire by simply forming themselves into an association. How very simple! Thus the road to prosperity and easy living has been made to appear so very simple as to cause many sincere people who were formerly social credit supporters to ask why the "association of individual members of society" has taken so long to commence the production of results?

My friends, do not be deceived, it has been working perfectly, and in the only manner it ever will, or can work. The fortunate members of the association who are receiving results are none other than your own elected representatives, who are drawing as high as \$25.00 per day, and all their loyal and "true blue" friends who have been given government jobs through the most ruthless and selfish system of patronage Canada has ever experienced.

INJURIOUS EFFECTS

In the meantime the quotation I read to you is the doctrine or dogma of the official social credit experts, and that is the dogma which is intended to guide and enlighten this government. The dogma of social credit does not radiate any light, but nevertheless it is a scorching fire behind a smoke screen, which has consumed peace and goodwill, and lowered the morale of many of our people. It is with reluctance and sorrow I find it necessary

to denounce this social credit nonsense and all its minions. They have made of this province an object of ridicule by those who live beyond our borders, and the self-respect and pride of our citizens has been injured. I urge you to submerge all local and party strife and rise in unison, and without delay, against this common peril.

There are indications and well-founded rumors that this government, which is the first and only social credit government in the whole world, has not abandoned their foolish, inimical and extravagant proposal to establish a provincial police force of their own, and cancel the agreement made by the late U.F.A. government with the federal government. I am informed the Royal Canadian Mounted Police service costs this province about \$275,000.00 per year under the present contract with the federal government, while the proposal now under way will cost the province at least \$750,000.00 per year, or more.

An increased expenditure of \$500,000 is an enormous sum of money to a province which is unable to pay the interest on its public debt, or redeem its savings certificates, and at a time when more money is required for relief purposes. It is glaringly inconsistent, but I ask you is there not something sinister in such a proposal?

This province is now policed by the Royal Canadian Mounted forces, with their long-time reputation, great traditions, and efficiency, which are the envy and admiration of people of other countries. This splendid body of men have been made available to us at a very moderate cost. Criminal law is under the ex-

clusive jurisdiction of the Dominion government, and apart from any other argument, is it not very desirable that the supervision and enforcement of criminal law should be in the hands of a police force, directed by the Dominion government, and covering the wide and sparsely settled areas of the West?

It is more than probable this move is instigated by the social credit sham-experts who are now governing this province, and it will be interesting to observe if the members you elected will meekly come to heel and act as "yes-men" for these hirelings who are not even citizens of Canada. If you wait to see the outcome it may then be too late, therefore do not delay in making combined and individual protest. Civil servants with long and faithful service records, have been discharged at a rapid rate, and are being replaced by subservient favorites of the administration. For no apparent reason the army of civil servants has greatly increased in the past two years.

In the organization of the new police force there will be made available a few hundred more jobs to be filled by government favorites and henchmen. Those of you who know what occurred in the State of Louisiana, while the Kingfish, Huey Long, was dictator, with the State Police under his jurisdiction, will be able to visualize the nature of the threatened danger to the people of this province. There was a reign of terror in Louisiana under Dictator Long. Unless the people of Alberta rise in protest and plainly inform Premier Aberhart that they will not tolerate the removal of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and its replacement by a force of

police selected by himself and his experts, I am fearful of the brand of justice which may govern in this province.

No man carrying on business in Alberta can fail to recognize that his rise or fall in business depends upon the success or failure of agriculture, which is our most important industry. The men and women who have been directly, or indirectly, engaged in the various phases of agriculture have been the foundation of our progress and development of the past, and upon them depends our future welfare and security.

PARTYISM OBSOLETE

If I did not sincerely believe that statement to be correct, and had I not been quite positive the farmers and others who reside in the rural districts of this province, were anxious to abandon, or in fact had to a large extent abandoned partyism, and were desirous of supporting a movement of unity of purpose, I would not be addressing you tonight.

It was because I believed an effort to encourage unity was so very desirable, and in fact essential, I consented to act as chairman of the Provisional Unity Council.

I wish to draw attention to the word "provisional," which is purposely used because the present members of the Council are, of necessity, voluntary appointees. At a later date it is hoped the Unity organizations throughout the province will appoint their own representatives.

The object of this movement is the reconstruction of the affairs of this province, and in order to approach that task with assurance of success it requires the combined influence of all our constructive

human forces. These human forces are now, more or less, divided by various discordant political factions.

Before proceeding further let me assure you I would not support, nor would I ask you to support, or join, any of the existing provincial political parties. Furthermore I would not, and could not, invite you to join a fully organized Unity party, because that would be impossible, as only the first step has been taken in the organization of the Unity movement.

The initial steps toward such organization were taken last Thursday (February 3) when the provisional council members held their first meeting. The men who composed that meeting had formerly been members of various parties, such as Liberal, Conservative and U.F.A., but they met around the council table as individuals representing no party. On the contrary, "all were for the province, and none for the parties." The objective is to unite all people who desire to establish responsible government for the re-building of confidence within, as well as outside, the province.

The Council is not concerned with the Unity, or fusion, of political parties. The past six months of discussions and recriminations have demonstrated the fusion of parties cannot be achieved.

The provisional Council will be enlarged immediately so as to include representatives from all sections of Alberta, and from as many walks of life of possible, regardless of former political affiliations.

TASK OF CITIZENS

The Council will not impose its viewpoint upon the people in any section of

the province. The task of selecting, and electing, a government to succeed the group now in office, and re-establish the affairs of the province, belongs to the people. It must remain your work and your obligation, because you alone can do it effectively.

Tonight I urge every man and woman who believes in a democratic business government to commence without delay and not only assist, but also insist, on forming and organizing Unity Associations throughout every constituency. If you fail to do this essential organization work, then the movement for Unity cannot get under way.

My friends, that is your great responsibility. If organization is not completed you cannot be prepared at the appointed time to nominate your own candidates who will support Unity of purpose, and represent your ideals of government in this province.

Permit me again to impress upon you the fact, I am not, and would not, think of inviting you to support any ready-made political machine. I owe allegiance to no political party, nor am I interested regarding the future fate of any of the provincial political parties, some of which are at this time doing a serious disservice by encouraging divisions and discord among the people. I am, however, intensely interested and deeply concerned in regard to the future of Alberta as well as the preservation of Canadian Confederation.

In this movement to establish Unity government I urge you to reject old partyism, and call a truce to all other forms of strife, some of which may be local in character. I urge you to unite with the com-

mon objective of selecting, when the time comes, one of the best men in your constituency, who will carry the banner of Unity to victory. There are many men of integrity and honesty of purpose, whose lives have been not only successful, but useful, in the true sense of that term, and such men should be selected as your candidates when the next election is announced.

AUTONOMY ASSURED

There is a need for a unifying force capable of undertaking studies of our problems, and for rendering assistance in the constituencies, when so requested, and the Council will undertake this work.

At an early date the provisions Council will be enlarged to include representatives from all sections of Alberta. Then as soon as it is possible after your Unity organizations are completed, you will be requested to appoint representatives to attend a province-wide meeting of such delegates, who will proceed in a democratic manner to create their own executive committee, and adopt a policy of re-construction. That is a short outline of the aims of the provisional Council, and our success or failure is your responsibility, as well as ours. We believe this movement interprets the wishes and opinions of the people, pointing and leading the way to the solution of the problems of the day, and particularly as these relate to our important industry of agriculture.

This part of Western Canada has been my home for 40 years. Before this province was carved out of the North West Territories, I was interested in the development and progress of this part of the West. I lived in South Edmonton and

carried on business with farmers in that area, when the total surplus of all grain produced in what is now Alberta, was loaded and shipped from six railway stations, located between Red Deer and what is now South Edmonton.

Since those early days of meagre production I have seen our wheat production alone exceed 175 millions of bushels per year.

Just a few years ago we were as a people almost arrogant in our pride of the future of this province, and now we have a social credit government which presumes to purchase our allegiance by promises of \$25.00 per month to every adult person. Would they presume to put us all on the Indian list and give us treaty money?

My friends, I ask you, why should we despair because in our over-enthusiasm and in the exuberance of a youthful province, prior to the great depression and crop failures, we became involved in an over extension of public and private debt?

We cannot overcome these difficulties by listening to empty and impossible promises of free dividends.

We can, however, unite and place in office men who have practical vision, and can intelligently undertake the task of reconstructing our affairs, which have been disrupted by the various near-calamities of the past seven years.

In the fall of 1930 I was persuaded it was my duty, as a Canadian citizen, to undertake the task involved in Canada's wheat problem. I freely devoted nearly five years of my life, in doing everything possible under prevailing world-wide depression, and over-production, to maintain the price of wheat and provide a ready

market for the western farmer. Those years were a grim struggle for the prairie farmers as well as for me, and it is now well to recall the petty politicians did not assist or encourage us. In retrospect, those years were well worth the personal sacrifices I made, because of the wonderful confidence the farmers and their organizations in the West confided in me, and their unselfish devotion and support.

DISCORD IS RAMPANT

That blizzard has passed into history, but following in its wake a storm of bitterness and strife has raged, and divided the people of Alberta into opposing groups, which one group foolishly declares, is a war of more importance than any conflict in history.

I was told in 1930 that it was my duty to serve my country at that time. In recent months many people have again told me it is my duty to serve this province, in the endeavor to unite the people in a common effort to bring order out of chaos. In a recent address a prominent political party leader made a statement in which he compared the supporters of Unity to that of hitch-hikers thumbing their way along the political highway.

Ladies and gentlemen, I feel sure you will agree that was a mean insinuation to make against a patriotic movement. While I resent the attempted sarcasm, I would suggest the gentleman was apparently unaware that the condition of the old political highway had become so very bad it has been closed for extensive repairs. The new thoroughfare is named Unity and hitch-hikers are prohibited.

As for me, I am only a business man who never cared for politics. However, I do appreciate the honor and the privilege of leading the non-political Unity movement, and I assure you I will see it through to a successful conclusion, provided the people throughout the province prove to me that it what they want, by proceeding with the organization of Unity associations.

Thanking you for your attention, and again urging you to action, I wish you all good night.

Additional copies of this address, or additional information concerning the movement toward unity of the people of Alberta in the present crisis, may be obtained by writing:

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